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A QUICK REVIEW

This lightweight issue has some heavy reports...one on a newly released booklet about organic farming...another about a proposed policy on information management and dissemination. Then we've listed a few new telephone numbers--some changes, that is...and a couple of job opportunities.

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TO CALL, CALL...

Here are some new telephone numbers and room assignments you might want to mark on your copy of "How to Get Information from USDA."

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary Ed Goodpaster: 447-5478 or 447-7843, (Room 204-E)

Acting Director of Public Affairs Hal Taylor: 447-5247 or 447-6311, (Room 402-A)

Acting Assistant to Assistant Secretary Al Cauley: 447-7903 or 447-7904, (Room 402-A)

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NOW IN ON THE ACT...

The Office of Management and Budget has proposed a new policy and Circular on Improved Management and Dissemination of Federal Information. Copies of the proposal went to GPA, Science and Education Administration and Economics, Statistics and Cooperatives Service. Via the grapevine, we hear that some field offices also received copies.

GPA reviewed the proposal and found five major parts of the draft:

1. Have a single office as an inf center which guides agency managers and sees that public inf (inf we actively seek to disseminate) is disseminated effectively, efficiently and economically.
2. Establish and maintain an index of USDA scientific and technical inf that will be maintained in the National Technical Information Service of the Dept. of Commerce, which shall be the clearinghouse for scientific and technical inf.
3. Information should be made available to the public through the depository library system; inf made available in other ways should be made available at a price which recovers costs of printing and disseminating the inf, unless there is conflict with laws or program objectives.
4. The feds shall place maximum feasible reliance upon the private sector to disseminate public information.
5. The head of each executive department and establishment, consistent with existing laws, has primary responsibility for determining what inf to make available to the public, methods to be used in making it available and price to charge.

Mostly the policy relates to scientific and technical material placed in inf systems, not to popularized material for the public at large. Key sentence in the draft relates to the fifth point, above, we thought. In effect, it says that the Secretary of Agriculture will decide what public inf will be made available and on what terms.

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ORGANIC OR NOT...

Some folks were surprised this week when the Department issued a report on organic farming. If you didn't get a copy, write and we'll round one up for you. You'll find it interesting and informative.

The report, based on a study in SEA, responds to increasing requests for inf and advice on organic practices. Energy shortages, food safety and environmental concerns have contributed to interest. Not the least of reasons, too, are increasing costs for conventional methods. From our own quick reading of the report, there seems to be a fair and rational approach...followed by many so-called organic farmers and those who don't consider themselves in that category too...that takes the best of the two methods.

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SEE CONSERVATION,
COUNTRY-WIDE

Another report you'll want to see is "Conservation from East to West" about the 1979 agricultural conservation program. John Ryan of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service edited it; filled it with pictures in a magazine format; organized it state by state. Write ASCS Information for a copy...might even direct your query to John.

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N.C. HAS OPENING

On the job front, Bill Carpenter, North Carolina State U., writes of the need to hire a coordinator for educational media. The spot replaces David Jenkins, who moved over to head the Dept. of Ag Inf on July 1.

Needed are a degree in a professional discipline; a knowledge of instructional technology; a minimum of 5 years' experience as a media pro. If interested, write Bill, Box 5037, Raleigh 27650, or call (919) 737-2808.

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SO DOES UTAH STATE

J.R. Allred, Utah State U., is looking for applicants for a consumer inf writer spot...needs someone with comm training, 4-H and/or home ec...to do news stories, a weekly column and radio/tv spots on consumer, family life and youth programs.

If interested, apply with a resume to J.R., Director, Inf Services, Logan 84322, or call (801) 750-1350.

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HUNTING A JOB...

On the lookout for a job is Anne G. Curtin. She's concentrated on natural resource management for an M.A. in public policy and administration at the U. of Wisconsin. Because of her experience in writing and editing, she wants to put those skills to work in inf someplace. She can be reached at 223 Kenyon Ave., Swarthmore, Pa. 19081 or at telephone (215) KI4-1875 or at 1806 Jefferson St., Madison, Wis. 53711...telephone: (608) 257-6492.